



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

FEB 17 2000

OFFICE OF
SOLID WASTE AND EMERGENCY
RESPONSE

Dr. William D. Travers
Executive Director for Operations
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
MS-016E15
Washington, DC 20555

Dear Dr. Travers:

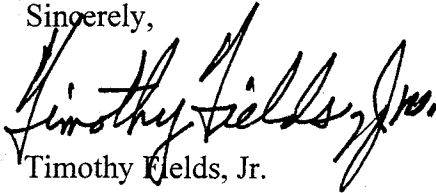
I am writing to you regarding the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) continuing effort to coordinate with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to protect human health and the environment at sites with radioactive contamination. EPA expects that the vast majority of facilities decommissioned under NRC authority will be protective of human health and the environment. The issue of EPA/NRC coordination at NRC licensed or decommissioned sites is noted on pages 58 and 59 of the House Committee on Appropriations Report 106-286, Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and Independent Agencies Appropriations Bill 1999, August 3, 1999.

The Committee directed EPA and NRC to report to the Committee no later than May 1, 2000, on the status of the development of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the two agencies. This letter addresses the Committee's direction that our two agencies work together on an MOU. The MOU I seek would govern those situations where EPA involvement is requested by NRC or other stakeholders.

On February 19, 1998, EPA transmitted to your predecessor, Mr. Joseph Callan, a proposed draft MOU outlining consultation procedures for EPA and NRC to use during NRC's decommissioning process. The draft MOU was intended to reduce the uncertainty faced by NRC licensees, to reduce the inefficiencies of cleaning up sites twice, and most importantly, to provide assurances to the public that NRC licensees are decommissioned in a manner that is protective of human health and the environment. I recently issued Interim Final Guidance (copy attached) to EPA's Regional Superfund Managers that is intended to accomplish these same goals by clarifying EPA's role under CERCLA at facilities previously or currently licensed by NRC.

We believe a final MOU between EPA and NRC would provide a framework to ensure that all decommissioned sites meet levels of protection that the public expects and without dual regulation. I have asked Larry Reed, Deputy Director of the Office of Emergency and Remedial Response (703-603-8960), to serve as EPA's point of contact on this effort. I request that you provide a point of contact so that we may reach resolution on this important issue as soon as possible. I look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Timothy Fields, Jr." The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Timothy Fields, Jr.
Assistant Administrator

Enclosure